

Entry barriers to entrepreneurship in Sri Lankan society

HAKNS Surangi¹ and WADS Wijetunge¹

A number of scholars have identified that entrepreneurship is the key variable which links the socio-cultural milieu with the rate of economic development. There has also been a wide recognition that the entrepreneurial development is essential not only to solve the problem of economic development but also to solve the problems of unemployment, unbalanced areas of development and concentration of economic power. The experiences from developing countries all over the world favor the hypothesis that their economies developed through entrepreneurship. But empirical evidence shows that many people did not opt for entrepreneurial activities due to various reasons. So it is worthy to identify the entry barriers to entrepreneurship in order to develop this sector.

Objectives of this study are to understand perception of youth towards entrepreneurship as career option, to identify barriers to entry to entrepreneurship and to evolve a policy framework and strategy to the country.

Three different structured questionnaires were used to collect data from undergraduates, recent passed-out graduates from University of Kelaniya and working employees from public and private sector. To analyze collected data both qualitative and quantitative methods were used particularly based on simple statistical methods.

The study concluded that all recent passed-out graduates responded for the questionnaire was employees, nobody was found as entrepreneurs. Other reasons included that no interest in business, disapproval of family and society and their attitudes and lack of confidence. Meanwhile 58.3% had some desire to reconsider their career plan.

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¹ Department of Commerce & Financial Management, Faculty of Commerce & Management Studies, University of Kelaniya